RITUAL

OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS CATHOLIC ORDER *of* FORESTERS

E. L. Grimes Printing Co., Boston

RULES AND ORDERS

Promulgated by the

HIGH STANDING COMMITTEE FOR RITUAL WORK

I. Chair-Officers of the Court are required to master the ritual, so that each one may do his part in the initiation and other ceremonials, in an impressive manner. This means that officers should commit their part of the ritual to memory. To read the ritual to candidates, is to deprive them of the effect and benefit they should receive and robs the ritual of the appeal *to,* and influence *upon,* the members, which it is designed to have. This rule also applies to the installation of officers and to the institution of new Courts.

II. Initiation of candidates must be done in the open Court, at regular meetings of the Court. Officers must wear their appropriate regalia, and conduct the ceremonial with due form and dignity.

III. The ritual work assigned to the various officers, is no less important than other duties imposed upon them by the law of the Order. No Officer who neglects or ignores the requirements of the ritual can be said to be deserving of the honor of his or her office.

IV. Members aspiring to chair-offices in the Court, in justice to themselves and to the Order, should consider candidly whether they are capable of doing the ritual work of the office in question, before occupying or seeking to occupy it.

V. The regalia, insignia and paraphernalia of the Order, is in the custody of the Conductors, whose duty

it is to keep them in a safe place, and in suitable condition for use.

VI. Courts should, so far as possible, insist that initiation work be done by their own officers. The custom of inviting degree-officers of other Courts to do initiation *should not* be followed, unless the Court extending the invitation, is ready, able and willing to return the favor, and put on an initiation when invited by some other Court to do so.

VII. Chair-officers should prepare themselves to do their ritual work, by rehearsing in private, among themselves (in the Court-room whenever possible). Without such study and practice, good ritual work can hardly be expected.

VIII. Initiation of candidates must be done according to the printed Ritual. No officer of the Court may alter the printed Ritual, either by adding to it, or omiting any part thereof, or otherwise.

IX. All books and literature relating to the secret work or ritual-work of the Order, are to be carefully guarded by the Marshal; so they may not fall into the hands of any person not a member of the Order. It is the duty of the Marshal to see that ritual books and other literature are not left lying around in the Court-room.

X. Following the initiation charge of the Financial Secretary, and before the charge of the Chief Ranger, the ceremony may be varied and enlivened by the introduction of such features of amusement and entertainment as circumstances permit.

Such features or "stunts" which lend humor or merriment within proper bounds, may be introduced, which

will brighten the ceremony and make it attractive to the members, thereby stimulating interest and keeping up attendance at degree-meetings.

In planning and conducting this part of the initiation, great caution should be exercised by chair-officers and committees in charge, to see that nothing is said or done, which would offend or humiliate the candidate; or make him or her reluctant or sensitive to come to the Court again, or to meet the members.

In this connection, it is imperative for the officers to consider first and before all their own ability, and that of their members to carry out a program of this description, without transgressing the bounds of good taste, politeness, kindness and charity to the candidates and members of the Court.

If the officers are in doubt, as to the ability or capacity of the members of the Court, to devise and conduct features of this kind, it will be best not to make the attempt at all. Mere experiments in this line might prove unfortunate.

It is probable, however, that every Court has one or more members, whose judgment, capacity and talents are such, that they may be safely entrusted with the work of investing the ceremony of initiation with clean, wholesome and unobjectionable diversion.

Wide latitude and due allowance must be made for the varying circumstances which may be found in different initiations, in different Courts, or even in the same Court, at different times. It is easy to see that a program which would be suitable and fitting with one candidate, or one group of candidates, would not be advisable with another.

Right here is a point at which the judgment, tact and thoughtfulness of the officers, or their committees must determine the course to be followed.

For these reasons, and for others which will occur to Court officers, it is deemed advisable, not to prescribe any set form of ritual for this part of the initiation; but to leave to the ingenuity and good sense of the chair-officers, the decision of what should be done, or left undone in this regard.

This does not mean, however, that the question is left absolutely and finally to the Court-officers, without any limititation, or without recourse to any superior officer of the Order. The Deputy High Chief Ranger of the Court, and the High-Standing Committee, must of course retain and exercise all their power, with respect to this matter, as in all other matters. It will be wise to consult them and take their advice in all doubtful instances.

By Order of the High Standing Committee.

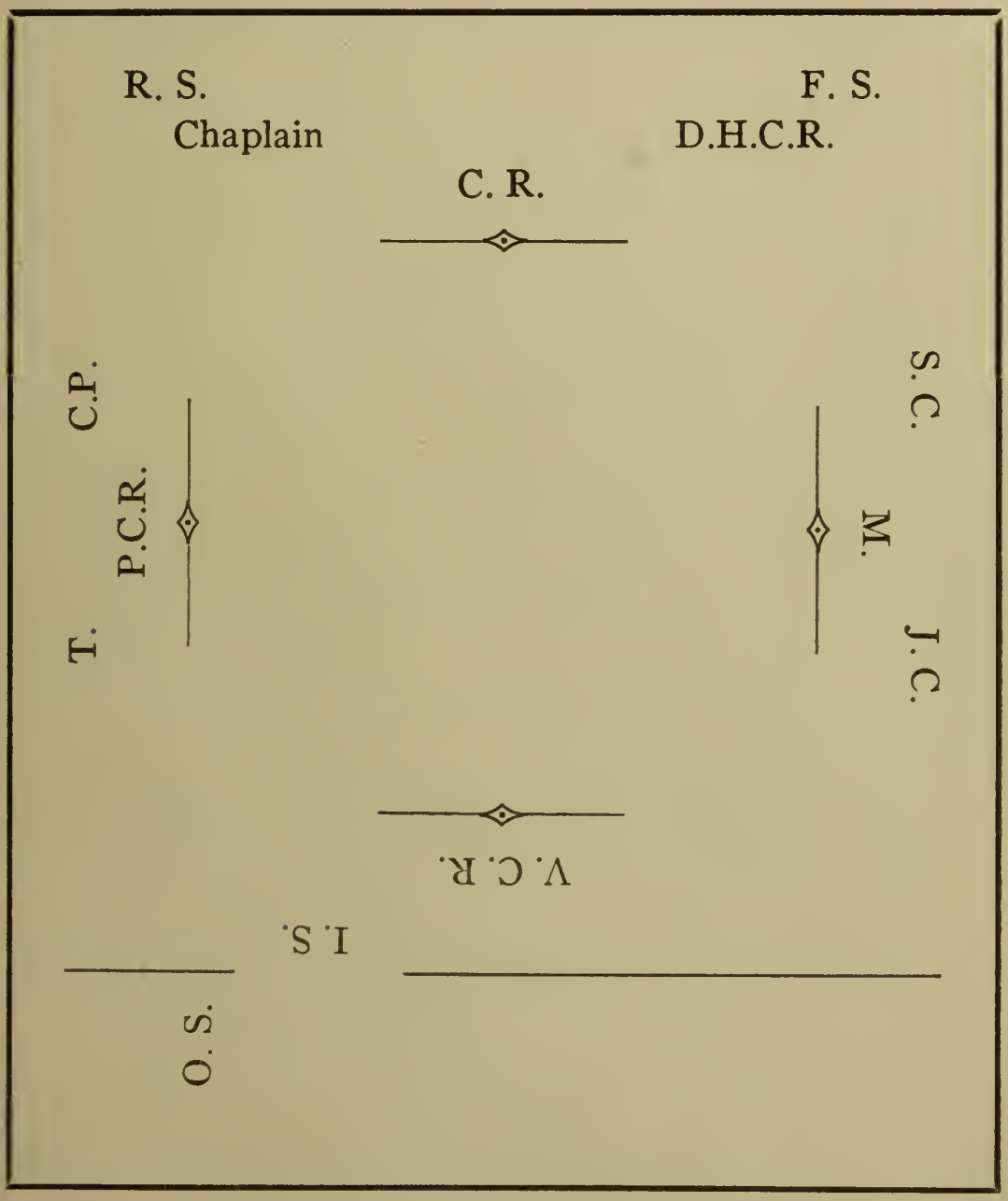
OFFICERS

Chief Ranger, Vice Chief Ranger, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary, Senior Conductor, Junior Conductor, Inside Sentinel, and Outside Sentinel.

The Chief Ranger at the beginning of his term of office will appoint a Marshal or Master of Ceremonies.

DIAGRAM OF COURT ROOM

This page is intended to give an idea of the form of a Court Room, etc. The room sometimes will not allow the Officers to be placed as they are here, particularly the Sentinels. It is desirable, however, to conform as nearly as practical to this form.



GAVEL

One rap of the Gavel calls to order or seats the Court.
Two raps call up the Officers.
Three raps call up the Court.
Four raps call up the Court to receive High Court Officers.

OPENING CEREMONIES

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CHIEF RANGER—*(Gives one rap and says:)* Marshal, prepare the Court for service:

(Marshal and Conductors advance to centre, salute, and if any of the officers are absent, Marshal so reports. Chief Ranger fills the vacancies and each officer, putting on his badge of office, takes his proper station.)

MARSHAL—Chief Ranger.

C. R.—Worthy Marshal.

M.—All positions are filled.

C. R.—The Vice Chief Ranger will ascertain if all present are Foresters.

V. C. R.—Marshal, you will ascertain if the Sentinels are in possession of the password, and report.

Conductors will please give me the password.

(Marshal ascertains if Sentinels are in possession of the password; returns to centre and reports. Conductors go to Vice Chief Ranger's station, give password and return to centre.)

V. C. R.—Marshal, you will take the password from all present and report to me.

MUSIC

(Marshal proceeds to take the password, Conductors remaining in centre. When the Marshal finds a member without the password, he calls the Conductors, who escort the member to the Chief Ranger and back to his place. The Marshal and Conductors now proceed to the centre, salute the Vice Chief Ranger, and the Marshal says:)

M.—Vice Chief Ranger.

V. C. R.—Worthy Marshal.

M.—Vice Chief Ranger, all present are Foresters with the password.

(If visitors are present, report them, giving the name of the Court to which they belong and the title if they hold an office.)

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(Vice Chief Ranger seats the Court.)

V. C. R.—Chief Ranger, the Court is ready to proceed with the session.

C. R.—Worthy Foresters, we will now join in prayer.

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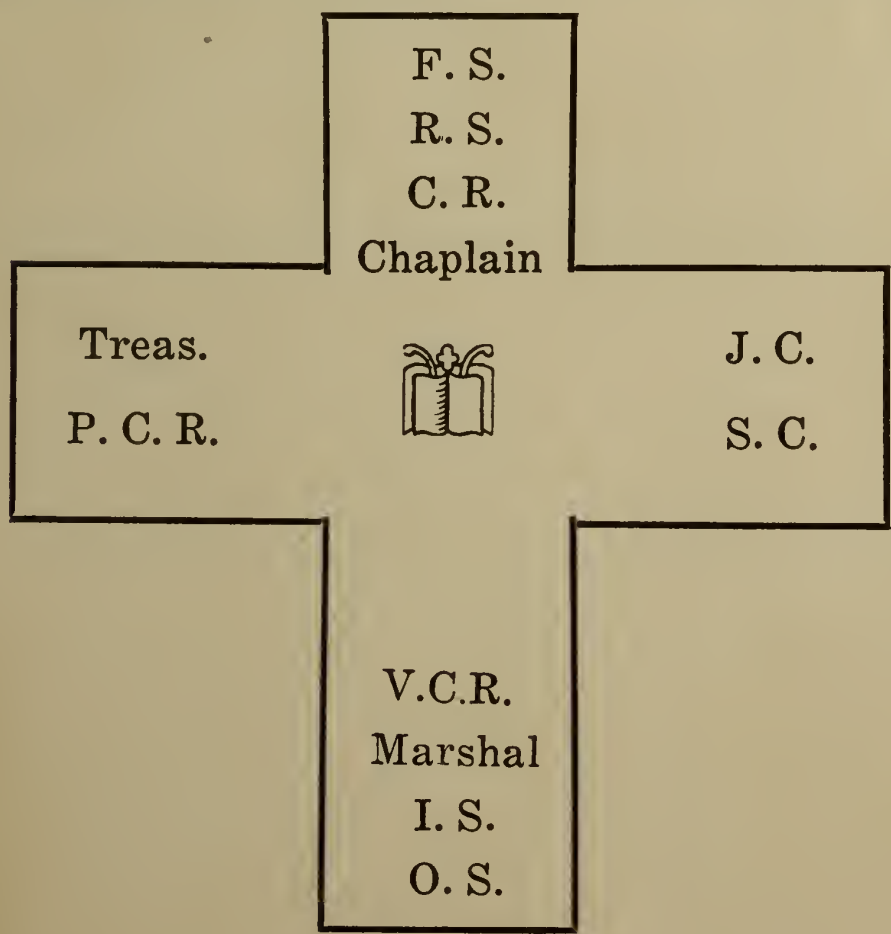
(Chaplain or Chief Ranger is then escorted to centre by the Secretary, and all officers arranged as in diagram. All kneel for prayer.)



PRAYER

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

O God—Before Whom every heart lieth open, to Whom every will doth speak, and from Whom no secret is hidden, purify our hearts by the inpouring of Thy Holy Spirit—that we may strive to love Thee perfectly—and worthily praise Thy name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

C. R.—Let all join in singing the Hymn to the Cross and the Flag.

(All rise, pianist plays Hymn and all present sing. At close of Hymn officers return to their stations, and Chief Ranger seats the Court.)

C. R.—I open this————meeting of ————Court for the transaction of all business that may properly come before it.

14. Report of Special Committees.
15. Election of Officers.
16. Roll Call of Members Present at the Meeting.
17. Unfinished Business.
18. Installation of Officers.
19. Suspension of Members.
20. New Business.
21. Good of the Order.
22. Closing Ceremonies.

ORDER OF BUSINESS OF SUBORDINATE COURTS

1. Opening Ceremonies.
2. Reading of Records of Previous Meeting.
3. Reception of Proposals for Membership.
4. Reinstatement of Suspended Members.
5. Report of Investigating Committee.
6. Balloting for Candidates.
7. Initiation of Candidates.
8. Reading and Reference of Bills and Accounts.
9. Reading and Disposition of Communications.
10. Report of Relief Committee.
11. Report of Members Sick, in Distress, or Out of Employment.
12. Report of Officers.
13. Report of Auditing Committee.
14. Report of Committees.
15. Election of Officers.
16. Unfinished Business.
17. Installation of Officers.
18. New Business.
19. Suspension of Members.
20. Good of the Order.
21. Closing Ceremonies.

BALLOTING FOR CANDIDATES

C. R.—Worthy Secretary, are there any candidates?

R. S.—Chief Ranger, the High Standing Committee has approved the application of ——————————for admission to our Order.

C. R.—Marshal, prepare the Ballot Box that the members may vote upon the application of——————————. "White balls elect and black balls reject."

(Marshal prepares the ballot box, takes it to the Chief Ranger and Vice Chief Ranger for inspection, and then places it on the stand in the centre of the room. Marshal then takes his place about six feet in the rear of the stand, with Conductors on either side.

When the balloting is over, the Chief Ranger declares the ballot closed. The Marshal closes the box, takes it to the Vice Chief Ranger for inspection, then to the Chief Ranger, and back to centre.)

C.R.—Vice Chief Ranger, do you find the ballot favorable or unfavorable?

V. C. R.—I find it——————(favorable) (unfavorable) and declare——————————elected. He must now present himself for initiation.

(The same formula must be carried out with each candidate.)

INITIATION CEREMONIES

C. R.—Marshal, are there any candidates for initiation? *(If Marshal answers in the affirmative, Chief Ranger continues:—)*

C. R.—Marshal, you will escort the Financial Secretary to the ante-room to collect the amount due from the candidate.

(Marshal and Secretary retire, collect the amount due, return and report:—)

F. S.—Chief Ranger, I have received the amount due from the candidate.

(F. S. salutes and returns to position under escort of the Marshal. Marshal returns to centre, salutes, and awaits further instructions.)

C. R.—Marshal, prepare the Court room and candidates for the ceremony of initiation.

(Marshal and Conductors retire to the ante-room, after saluting the Chief Ranger and the Vice Chief Ranger.)

(The Senior Conductor blindfolds the candidate, who will remain blindfolded until the Chief Ranger orders the blindfold to be removed. The Senior Conductor then raps loudly on the inner door.)

I. S.—Vice Chief Ranger, there are candidates seeking admission to our Order.

V. C .R.—Our doors are open to the worthy —you will admit them.

MUSIC AND MARCH

(Marshal, Conductors, and candidates enter Court room in line and advance to the centre, where the Marshal salutes and says:—)

M.—Chief Ranger.

C. R.—Worthy Marshal.

M.—We have a stranger who seeks unity and fellowship with us.

C. R.—Worthy Marshal, you will present the candidate to our Vice Chief Ranger for instructions.

MUSIC AND MARCH

(Marshal and Conductors salute, wheel, and march around the hall to station in front of the Vice Chief Ranger.)

M.—Vice Chief Ranger, I have the pleasure of presenting to you——————————
—*(give name or names of candidates)* who seek (seeks) admission to our beloved Order. He has been vouched for as worthy and has received the approval of the High Standing Committee.

V. C. R.—Our Order is founded on Love, Charity, and Unity. Fraternal love binds our members one to another. Charity counsels us to deport ourselves, in thought, word, and deed, with gentle tolerant kindness to one another, and to all mankind.

Dominated thus by Love and Charity, we aim to achieve that Unity of purpose, action, and will—to conquer those adversities of life, which often crush the man or woman who tries to overcome them unaided and alone.

Helpfulness is the watch-word of Forestry, whenever affliction or distress of any kind besets a member of our Order. Forestry aims

to make us mindful that prosperity is a tide, which ebbs and flows. The member who enjoys worldly comfort today, may be sorely in need of assistance tomorrow. Do you still desire union with our Order?

CANDIDATE—I do.

V. C. R.—Worthy Marshal, you will escort the candidate to our esteemed Treasurer.

MUSIC AND MARCH

(Marshal and Conductors with candidate march slowly around centre, stand before the Treasurer, and salute. Marshal says:)

M.—Worthy Treasurer.

TREASURER—Worthy Marshal.

M.—Worthy Treasurer, I present this candidate for instructions.

TREASURER—In seeking membership in our Order, you must firmly determine to leave all malice, enmity, and ill-will behind.

Selfishness has no abiding place in our ranks. Sympathy with *every other* Forester is demanded of *each* Forester:—readiness to relieve distress,—readiness to rejoice with any of the brethren upon whom Fortune smiles. In the golden sunlight of true Forestry the serpents of *envy* and *hatred* cannot live.

Fidelity of each to the welfare of all, assures to *each member* the aid and support of *all members,* when proper occasion arises. Thus is Unity promoted and maintained, im-

parting compactness, beauty, and strength to our noble Order.

Accepting these principles, are you still desirous of union with our Order?

CANDIDATE—I am.

T.—Worthy Marshal, you will conduct the candidate to our honored Financial Secretary for further instructions.

MUSIC AND MARCH

(The procession forms as before and marches to the Financial Secretary's station.)

FINANCIAL SECRETARY—My friends, you are about to take the obligation which will make you a member of our beloved Order. But before doing so, let me impress upon you another obligation of the utmost importance, and that is your financial obligation.

You have paid the fee required by our law, for admission to the Order. Hereafter at regular intervals, you will be notified when further payments are due from you. These assessments are levied upon all our members for the payment of Death Benefits, for maintaining a Reserve Fund, and for defraying the running expenses of your Court and of the Order.

Thirty days are allowed within which you must comply with these notices, known as Assessment Calls. These payments must be made to the Financial Secretary of this Court.

This Court is obliged under penalty of forfeiture of its charter to pay to the High Secretary-Treasurer, the amount assessed upon every member of the Court.

You see, therefore, that failure on your part to pay your Assessments seasonably, will deprive your beneficiary, that is to say, your dependents, of the benefits and protection which your membership assures to them.

Prompt payment by the individual members,—although the sum is small,—yields in total the larger sum which provides protection for our members, and enables the Order to carry on its business and sustain its ideals of Charity.

As Financial Secretary of this Court, I cannot impress upon you too strongly that the Constitution of this Order obliges you to pay your assessment within thirty days from the date of its issue. Failure to make this payment within the thirty days prescribed will mean the loss of your insurance and deprive your loved ones of the financial protection which is guaranteed to them by your membership in this Order and to which they are entitled.

F. S.—Worthy Marshal, you will please conduct the candidate to our honored Chief Ranger, who will administer the obligation of our Order.

MUSIC AND MARCH

(The procession forms as before and marching around the room lines up and halts before the Chief Ranger's station.)

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M.—Honored Chief Ranger, instructions have been given to the candidate by our Vice Chief Ranger, Worthy Treasurer and Financial Secretary. He (or she) is now presented to you, requesting full membership in the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters.

C. R.—Any Forester present who wishes to question the candidate (or candidates) or to test his (her or their) willingness or worthiness to become one of us, may now take the floor. (Following this test or trial which must conform to Rule X the C. R. administers his charge.)

C. R.—In its primary sense, Forestry, as you know, means the cultivation and preservation of trees, those magnificent specimens of God's creation, which by their foliage, their blossoms, and their fruit, not only beautify the earth, but nourish, refresh, and inspire mankind. They shelter man and beast from the fury of the winds and the rigors of heat; afford a home-nest for the birds of the air; nurture the soil, by detaining in its bosom the moisture which the fertilizing rain bestows as it falls from Heaven.

To the tree, civilized man is indebted for

the material of his houses, churches, schools, and the countless implements of commerce, to say nothing of the appliances of science and art.

Forestry in the natural order is, therefore, highly useful, necessary, and beneficial to mankind. No less so—if not more so—is that Forestry to which we would welcome you as members of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters.

Charity is a tree implanted by God and nourished by His Grace in the immortal souls of men. The roots are religion; the branches are the acts of helpfulness we do for others; the leaves which deck the tree in splendor, glorifying the Creator and making it a thing of beauty in human sight are our kind and generous words.

Brotherly love is a tree of a kindred growth, constantly in bloom. It is ever green,—it thrives best wherever human suffering takes its course,—it casts its gentle shadow over the sick bed and droops in devout sympathy above the grave.

The Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters is established and maintained to cultivate and preserve such trees. In joining our Order, each member takes a pledge to foster, protect, and cherish these precious, beauteous growths of virtue.

As a body of Catholic men and women, our Order proposes to itself, the cultivation and preservation of Unity, Fraternity, and true Christian Charity, not merely as virtues to be admired, but to be cherished for their own sake and practiced in daily life. It is the motive in human conduct that makes it meritorious. And so it is that Forestry derives its great power and usefulness from the spirit which actuates its members.

As trees lend beauty, grace, and symmetry to the face and form of nature, so do Love, Charity, and Fraternity enrich, ennoble, and exalt men and women who sincerely aspire to exemplify them.

And as the cultivation of trees contributes so abundantly to the human needs and material improvement of men, so does the cultivation of the ideals of our Order—the wide-spreading trees of Brotherly Love and Charity—minister immeasurably to the exaltation and enrichment of the souls of men.

This is the capital object of our Order.

Behold now the lesson of Unity, as Forestry expounds it.

Not for long will a tree survive, sturdy though it be, when it stands in solitude, whether on the hill-top or the plain. The storm and stress of the elements, the onslaught of the gale, the insidious encroachment of the

blight, the changes of cold and heat will rend, and parch, and break it; and so it will soon wither and die.

But that same tree, surrounded by many trees which make a forest, lives on, giving shelter and protection to its neighbors, and receiving from them, shelter, aid, and protection in return. So, despite the assaults of climate and season, the forest stands for ages, its roots deeply intertwined, its trees massed triumphantly against the dangers which no one of them could long endure alone.

United we stand. Divided, we fall.

You and I as individuals are weak indeed. Bound together, and surrounded by the thousands who compose our Order, we are strong.

Worthy Marshal, remove the blindfold.

Now, my friends, that the blindfold has been taken from your eyes, we will disclose to you the reason for using it. It was used as an object lesson to remind you of our dependence on one another, and to demonstrate the utter darkness and gloom of the road of life, when it is not illumined by that Helpfulness, Charity, and Brotherly Love demanded of us by our Religion, and cultivated by our Order.

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(Chief Ranger calls up the Court.)

C. R.—You will raise your right hand and repeat this obligation using your name where I use mine:

I,————,in the presence of the members of the Order here assembled, do pledge my word and honor, as a Catholic, that I will strive to the best of my ability, God helping me, to conduct myself at all times in a manner befitting a Catholic.

I promise always to avoid scandal, whether by causing, encouraging, or promoting the same, in any way whatsoever.

I promise to discharge faithfully any and every duty imposed upon me by the law, or the lawful authority of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters.

I promise that I will at all times, aid, support, protect, and defend my brother and sister Foresters, whenever I can do so in good conscience and justice.

I promise to refrain in thought, word, and deed, from all unkindness, envy, detraction, or malice towards any member of this Order, or towards any other person.

I pledge myself to hold secret and inviolate, all the business, ceremonials, and doings of this Court, and of this Order, and under no conditions to reveal the same directly or indirectly, to any person whomsoever, who is not a member, unless my moral duty requires

that I so reveal them under seal of the confessional, or to proper civil authorities.

These promises I hold to be binding upon me while I live.

The grip of the Order is————. The password for the current term is————, and it will admit you to any Court of our Order. You are not allowed to give the password to anyone except the proper officials of the Court in the discharge of their duties.

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(Chief Ranger gives one rap, seats the Court.)

C. R.—Worthy Marshal, you will now escort the member to our Past Chief Ranger for final instructions.

MUSIC AND MARCH

(Marshal salutes, and marches with the candidate to station of the Past Chief Ranger.)

M.—Worthy Past Chief Ranger, I have been instructed by the Chief Ranger to present to you our new member for final instructions.

P. C. R.—Brother (or Sister) I congratulate you upon the momentous step you have taken, and welcome you into the ranks of Forestry. As a member, you are entitled to know something of the inner workings of our organization.

To gain entrance to the Court-room, *rap once* on the outer door, and give the first part of the password to the Outside Sentinel, who will admit you to the ante-room. Then rap three times on the inner door; give your name,

ILLUSTRATION SHOWING MANNER OF SALUTE

the name and number of your Court, and recite the last part of the password to the Inside Sentinel. He will admit you to the Court-room.

After entering the Court-room, advance to the centre of the hall, salute the Chief Ranger in this manner:——————, turn and salute the Vice Chief Ranger in the same manner, and be seated.

In the conduct of a meeting, there are certain signals to be observed:—

One rap of the gavel calls the members to order; or seats the Court.

Two raps of the gavel call up the officers.

Three raps of the gavel call up the Court.

Four raps of the gavel call up the Court to receive High Officers.

When addressing the presiding officer, arise, salute, and address him (or her) by the title, Chief Ranger. When referring to an officer of the Court, use the proper title. As for all other members, address them as Brother or Sister ————.

You have been fully instructed as to the meaning of Forestry, and also as to the obligations which you individually assume in becoming a Forester.

Henceforth, your Brothers and Sisters in this Order stand bound to you—as you do to

them—by the strong yet tender ties of Unity, Charity, and Brotherly Love.

Ordering your lives by these sublime principles, life for you will be happier and nobler; death will find you calm and unafraid. The protection against poverty and want which you have provided for your dependents and your loved ones by your insurance in our Order will help to console you in your last hour on earth, and will sweeten and enrich the memory you will leave behind in the hearts of those you love and who love you.

Solemnly I ask you—Do you freely and sincerely pledge yourselves to perform and discharge faithfully all your duties and obligations as a member of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters?

ANSWER—I do.

Let me now request you to come to the next meeting of this Court on the————day of————in this hall; likewise to every meeting of this Court that you can attend. Attendance at the meetings of the Court is not only a duty, but as you will find, a pleasure as well.

The Court meetings afford you a convenient opportunity of paying to our Financial Secretary, your dues and assessments; also, they furnish you a rare opportunity of extending

your acquaintance and increasing friendships among Catholic men and women, whose faith and aspirations, aims and ideals, are identical with your own. What this means in the life of any of us, is too plain to require explanation.

As a source of wholesome recreation, the meetings of your Court cannot be surpassed, provided you unite freely with other members of the Court in making the meetings enjoyable and pleasant. We have no doubt you will do your full share in this regard.

Now a word of caution to you! Do not under any circumstances reveal to any one, not a Forester, anything relating to the ceremonial or the business of this Court or of the Order. Secrecy concerning these matters is an obligation upon you. Moreover, this secrecy, when fully maintained by all our members, serves to attract new members, through a desire to share the secret with you.

My friends, be assured and encouraged in taking the obligations which you have assumed tonight. You have thereby attached yourselves to thousands of men and women who have found happiness and benefit by doing as you have done here. Henceforth you will share with these thousands, as they will share with you, all the blessed fruits of membership

in the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters.

Now, in behalf of the Court, its officers and members, I welcome you to our ranks, and pledge to you the loving aid and hearty friendship of all Catholic Foresters.

(Marshal and candidate turn toward the centre of the hall, and Chief Ranger calls up the Court.)

P. C. R.—Worthy Foresters, I have the pleasure of presenting to you our new Brother (or Sister). *(Call up the Court.)*

THE COURT WILL NOW GREET THE NEW MEMBER. (Pianist strikes a loud chord, and all join in singing the Initiation Ode.)

(When this is finished, Chief Ranger gives one rap of the gavel and declares a recess of the Court.

During the intermission, the Marshal and other officers introduce new member to those present.)

CLOSING CEREMONIES

C. R.—Financial Secretary, you will state the amount of money you have received since the close of the last meeting, including therein the receipts of this meeting.

(Financial Secretary announces receipts, each fund separately, which report the Recording Secretary enters on the minutes.)

C. R.—Officers and Members:—I thank you for your attendance at this meeting, and remind you that faithful attendance at every meeting is the best means of promoting fraternal charity amongst our members. Let us retire with kindly feelings towards one another, and close our meeting by invoking the blessing of God upon our Court and all its members.

Prayer:—In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, Amen. Visit, O Lord, we beseech Thee, our homes, and drive far from them all snares of the enemy. Let Thy holy angels dwell therein to keep us in peace. And may Thy blessing be always upon us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary.

(After the singing of the Good-Night Ode, the Chief Ranger will declare the session closed.)

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INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

C. R.—The next order of business is Installation of Officers.

Marshall, you will ascertain if the Deputy High Chief Ranger is ready to install the officers.

(Marshal retires, ascertains, returns, and reports.)

C. R.—Marshal with Conductors will escort the Deputy High Chief Ranger to his station.

(Marshal and Conductors retire, and when all is in readiness Marshal raps for admission.)

I. S.—Chief Ranger, the Marshal with Deputy High Chief Ranger seeks admission.

C. R.—Admit them.

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(Chief Ranger gives four raps to call up the Court. Suitable march music is played, and Deputy and Aids come into Court room in the following order:—)

Court's Marshal.

Court's Conductors.

Deputy's Aids.

Deputy.

(All proceed up centre to Chief Ranger's station. Conductors and Deputy's Aids separate, and face in at salute. Deputy passes between them, takes position on right of Marshal and both salute the Chief Ranger. Marshal says:—)

M.—Chief Ranger, our Worthy Deputy High Chief Ranger.

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(The Chief Ranger welcomes Deputy with hand clasp and seats the Court. Marshal and Conductors go to their stations—and Deputy's Aids to seats placed in front of the Past Chief Ranger's station.

If the Deputy is accompanied by a large staff, whose members wish to perform evolutions, they may do so at this point, after which they go to places prepared for them.)

C. R.—Members of ———————— Court. A new year of Forestry opens tonight with the Installation of your newly-elected officers. It is gratifying to realize that, during the year now ending, our labors for the advancement of the Court have not been in vain. It is certain that still greater improvement will come, with a little more zeal and energy on the part of those who, for any reason, have done less for the cause than they might have done.

Let these considerations encourage and incite us to go forward with confidence and enthusiasm to work loyally and unitedly, for the greater good and glory of ———————— Court.

Permit me to express my gratitude to you all, for the unfailing courtesy which I have received at your hands, while serving you in the office of Chief Ranger. And now I have the honor of presenting our Deputy High Chief Ranger, who has come to install our officers.

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(Chief Ranger calls up the Court, and hands gavel to Deputy. Deputy seats the Court and speaks as follows:—)

DEPUTY HIGH CHIEF RANGER—In accordance with the law of our Order, and under the authority of our Worthy High Chief Ranger, whose representative I am, I come to install the Officers of ———— Court. It is a pleasure, as well as a privilege, for me to do so, not only for personal reasons, but also for the reason that the great cause of Forestry, to which we have all pledged ourselves, continues to show unmistakable signs of progress and improvement throughout the Commonwealth; and the promise of still greater strength and development is most inspiring.

The strength and usefulness of our Order, is the strength and usefulness of the Courts which compose it; and the strongest and most useful Court is that one which has the largest percentage of active, energetic members. The moral is plain. Be an active, interested, faithful member of your Court, and the goal of Forestry is won.

Now I proceed to install your Officers for the ensuing year. Listen attentively to the instructions which I give them, and pledge yourselves silently to aid them, and support them in the obligations which they will assume, in the various posts to which you have called them to serve your Court.

(The Deputy, addressing Marshal, says:—)

D. H. C. R.—Marshal.

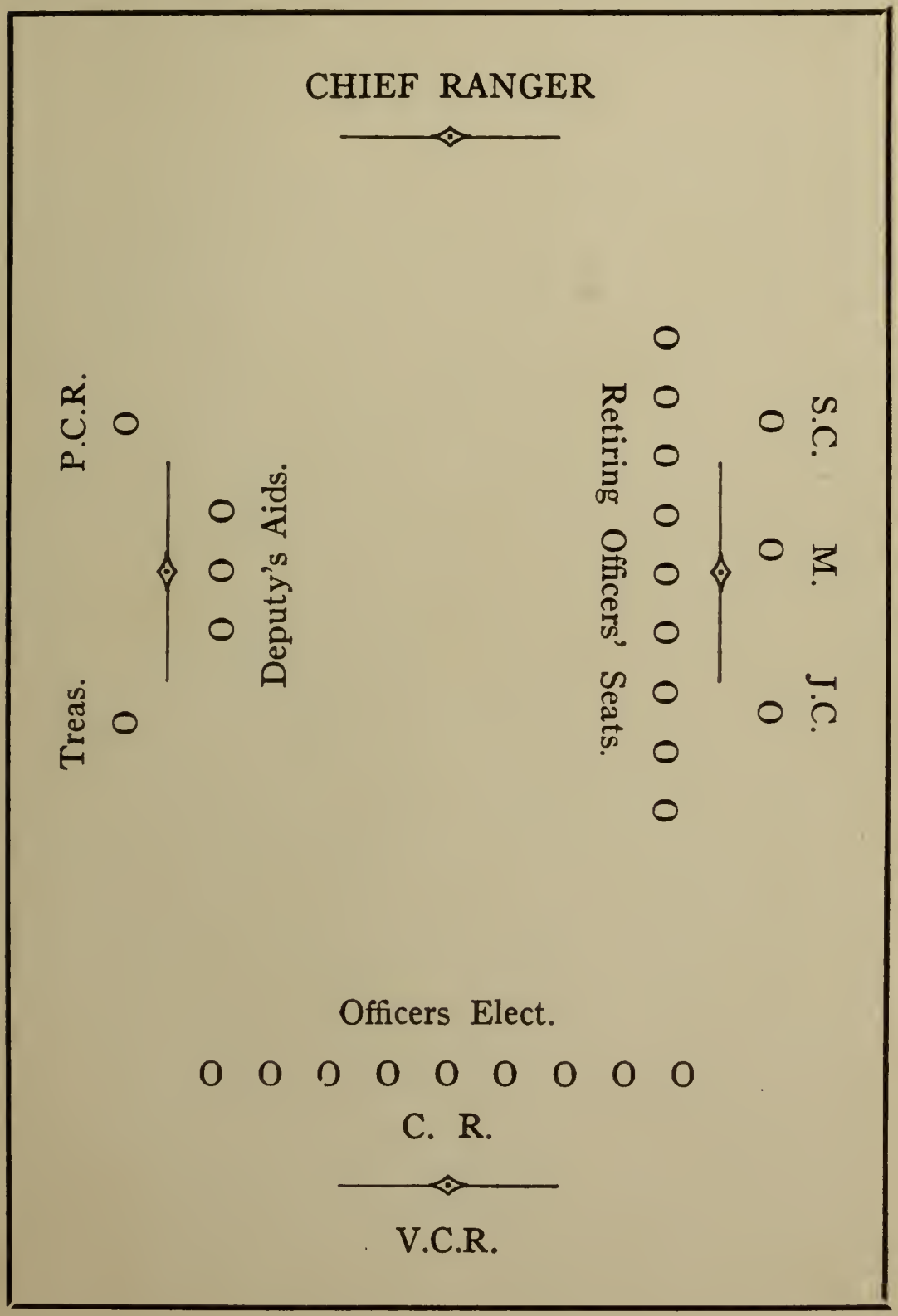
S.C.
M.
J.C.
Retiring Officers' Seats.
P.C.R.
Treas.
Deputy's Aids.
CHIEF RANGER
Officers Elect.
C. R.
V.C.R.

Diagram No. 4.

(Marshal and Conductors come to centre and salute.)

D. H. C. R.—Prepare the Court for installation.

(Marshal and Conductors arrange seats for officers-elect in front of Vice Chief Ranger's station, and seats for retiring officers in front of Court Marshal's station. (See diagram No. 4.) When this is arranged, Marshal and Conductors go to centre, salute and report.)

D. H. C. R.—Marshal, you will collect the badges and books of the Court.

(Marshal and Conductors collect and arrange these in a convenient place, and report.)

D. H. C. R.—Marshal, you will escort the Chief Ranger to centre.

(When at centre Chief Ranger, Marshal, and Conductors line up and salute.)

Marshal.—Deputy High Chief Ranger, obedient to your command, I present to you Chief Ranger ————————, who by his service, is qualified for the honors of Past Chief Ranger of this Court.

D. H. C. R.—Chief Ranger ————————, do you promise me and the members of your Court, to perform zealously all duties incumbent upon you as a Past Chief Ranger?

C. R.—I do.

D. H. C. R.—Wherefore do I proclaim you Past Chief Ranger of ———————— Court, and of the Order. Henceforth you shall bear the title, wear the honors, and exercise all the authority and privileges pertaining to the post

of Past Chief Ranger of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters.

Marshal, you will invest the Past Chief Ranger with the badge of his (or her) office, and escort him (or her) to Past Chief Ranger's station, and the Past Chief Ranger to retiring officer's seat.

D. H. C. R.—The Secretary will read the names of the officers-elect, and as their names are pronounced they will rise, and the Marshal will escort them to the seats placed for them.

D. H. C. R.—Have these members whose names you announce, been duly elected at a regular meeting of this Court?

R. S.—Deputy High Chief Ranger, they have been so elected, and the election of each one has been duly certified on the records of this Court.

D. H. C. R.—Does any member know of any reason which would disqualify these officers-elect from advancing to the station to which they have been elected? - - - - Hearing no objection, and perceiving no impediment, I hereby declare them severally qualified for installation, according to the law of our Order.

Officers, in assuming the obligations now to be administered by me, let me admonish you to act with deliberation, and with profound sincerity of purpose that you may thus fulfill

your pledges to the letter, and perform your respective duties to the best of your ability.

D. H. C. R.—Marshal, you will now present to me the Sentinels-elect for installation.

MUSIC AND MARCH

(Marshal and Conductors present the Sentinels-elect.)

MARSHAL—Deputy High Chief Ranger, the Sentinels-elect.

D. H. C. R.—You will raise your right hand, and in full, clear tones, repeat after me your pledge of duty, thus:—

I, ————————, do promise on my honor, to attend the meetings of this Court regularly, unless prevented therefrom by illness, or by some higher duty; to guard with care the portals of this Court, that none but members of the Order may enter; to keep secret all business of the Court; to aid the Chief Ranger and Officers, in maintaining order, or in any other way, when called upon; and in all respects to comply with all laws and regulations.

D. H. C. R.—Receive your badge of office. Remember this, your pledge, and so fulfill it as to merit the esteem and gratitude of this Court, which has shown its confidence in your fidelity.

The Marshal will escort you to your position.

MUSIC AND MARCH

(Marshal and Conductors will, after having placed the Sentinels-elect in their positions, escort the retiring Sentinels to seats prepared for them in front of Marshal's rostrum.)

(Marshal and Conductors return to centre and salute.)

D. H. C. R.—Marshal, you will now present the Conductors-elect.

MUSIC AND MARCH

(Marshal and Conductors present the Conductors-elect.)

MARSHAL—Deputy High Chief Ranger, the Conductors-elect.

D. H. C. R.—The post of Conductor, to which you each have been elected by this Court, is not only necessary, but important. Your duties are an essential part of the ceremonial of the Ritual, and call for a certain degree of dignity and grace of bearing, which will lend definite charm to the secret work and make it edifying and impressive.

Raise your right hand. You solemnly pledge your sacred word to discharge faithfully the duties of Senior and Junior Conductor, as defined by the law, and prescribed by the Ritual; and so to conduct yourselves at all times, as members and officers, as to deserve the commendation of the Court and of the Order.

Answer—We do so pledge.

D. H. C. R.—Accepting your pledge, I now confer upon each of you this emblem of your office, and proclaim you, Senior—and you, Junior Conductor of ———————— Court, for the term for which you have been chosen. Keep in mind the pledge you have taken, and let your bearing and conduct in your office be such as to justify the judgment of the members in electing you.

Marshal, you will escort the Conductors to their stations.

MUSIC AND MARCH

(Marshal and Conductors escort them to their stations and return with retiring officers to the retiring seats, then advance to centre, and salute.)

D. H. C. R.—Marshal, you will present the Secretaries-elect.

MUSIC

(Marshal and Conductors present Recording and Financial Secretaries-elect.)

MARSHAL—Deputy High Chief Ranger, the Secretaries-elect.

D. H. C. R.—Raise your right hands, please. You have each been chosen to a station of unique importance and rank. You, as Recording Secretary, must make and preserve a true record and account of the doings of your Court, preserve all correspondence and reply to it, as required or directed. You are, in a sense, the Historian of the Court for the time being.

You, as Financial Secretary, must receive and scrupulously account for, all the revenue and income of the Court, and deliver the same without delay into the hands of the Treasurer; you must keep a strict and complete account of all your transactions with each member, and with the other officers of the Court.

Both of these offices of Secretary, call for accuracy, punctuality, and constant vigilance. The records, the moneys, books, and documents which come into your hands are the property of the Court, and must be surrendered promptly by you at the end of your term, or sooner, if so required by proper authority. Do you each solemnly promise to comply fully and faithfully with these exacting requirements?

Answer—We do.

D. H. C. R.—Then do I bestow upon you this emblem of your authority, and commit to your care the books, records, and documents belonging to your office. Be faithful to your great trust. Be prompt. Be punctual.

If circumstances prevent your attendance at any meeeting of the Court, make sure that your books and records are placed in the hands of your Chief Ranger, so that your absence may not hinder or obstruct the course of business of the Court.

May you meet in fullest measure those

high expectations of your fidelity and ability, which the members entertain concerning you.

Our worthy Marshal will now escort you to your stations.

MUSIC AND MARCH

(Marshal and Conductors escort them to their stations and return to centre after escorting retiring officers to seats.)

D. H. C. R.—Worthy Marshal, you will present the Treasurer-elect.

MUSIC AND MARCH

(Marshal and Conductors present the Treasurer-elect.)

M.—Deputy High Chief Ranger, the Treasurer-elect.

D. H. C. R.—You will please raise your right hand, and repeat after me:—

I, ——————————, promise on my honor as a Catholic and a Forester, to discharge faithfully all the duties imposed upon me as custodian of the funds belonging to this Court; to keep them safely and separately from all other moneys in my possession, paying out money belonging to the Court only upon voucher, or written demand duly authorized; keeping an accurate and complete account of every collection, disbursement, and transaction, in which I participate as Treasurer of this Court; and to stand ready at all times when lawfully required, to surrender all

property of the Court in my custody, or to submit the same for proper audit and examination.

D. H. C. R.—By the authority vested in me, I proclaim you Treasurer of ———— Court until your successor is duly chosen and qualified.

Let your aim be so to conduct yourself in your high and honorable office, that the members of this Court will know you and esteem you, as a Forester of high honor and good conscience. I have no doubt you will justify the great confidence in you, which the members have manifested in electing you.

Marshal, you will escort the Treasurer to his station.

MUSIC AND MARCH

(Marshal and Conductors escort the Treasurer to his station, and return to centre after escorting the retiring Treasurer to seat.)

D. H. C. R.—Marshal, present the Vice Chief Ranger-elect.

MUSIC AND MARCH

(Marshal and Conductors present the Vice Chief Ranger-elect.)

M.—Deputy High Chief Ranger ————, the Vice Chief Ranger-elect.

D. H. C. R.—As Vice Chief Ranger, you assume grave responsibility; second only to that of Chief Ranger, and in some respects,

equal to that imposed upon the highest officer in the Court. It is your bounden duty to study, and to make yourself familiar with, the laws of the Order, the by-laws of your Court, as well as the rules and regulations governing the administration of the affairs of the Order.

Moreover, your duty requires that you become equally conversant with the Ritual and secret work, to the end that you may, not only perform capably, the ritual work of your own office, but that your performance in this regard be so efficient and impressive, as to drive home the lesson of Forestry to candidates, and serve as an example of diligence and capacity to other ritual officers.

It will devolve upon you to preside at meetings of your Court, in case the Chief Ranger is absent or unable to preside. You must realize that this demands of you a thorough working knowledge of all rules of procedure, a calm and firm disposition to be just and impartial in every way, and steadfast in your adherence to the ideals of Unity, Charity, and Brotherly-Love.

Contemplating these rigid requirements, are you ready and content to assume the office?

Answer—I am.

D. H. C. R.—Please raise your right hand and take the pledge of loyalty to your trust, as I pronounce it to you.

I, ——————, solemnly call the members here to witness my sacred pledge to discharge the duties of Vice Chief Ranger of this Court, to the utmost of my ability.

I promise to be loyal to this Court, its officers, its members, and its best interests; neither to commit nor to countenance any violation of the laws or rules of the Order; to observe, and so far as in me lies, to promote the principles of Forestry, between member and member, within and without this chamber.

These pledges I take freely, as binding upon me from this hour.

D. H. C. R.—Being assured of your sincerity in the pledge you have just taken, and of your ability to discharge the duties devolving upon you, I bestow upon you this emblem of your high office, and install you Vice Chief Ranger of ——————— Court for the term of your election.

Marshal, you will escort the Vice Chief Ranger to his station.

(Deputy calls up the Court by three raps of the gavel.)

o o o

MUSIC AND MARCH

(Marshal and Conductors escort the Vice Chief Ranger to his station, and Deputy seats the Court. The retiring Vice Chief Ranger is escorted to his seat, and Marshal and Conductors return to centre.)

D. H. C. R.—Marshal, you will please present the Chief Ranger-elect.

MUSIC AND MARCH

(Marshal and Conductors march to Chief Ranger-elect and salute. Deputy calls up the Court by three raps of the gavel. Marshal and Conductors present the Chief Ranger-elect.)

MARSHAL—Deputy High Chief Ranger, I have the honor and the privilege of presenting for installation in the office of Chief Ranger of this Court ——————————————.

D. H. C. R.—Every instruction in the essential duties of each station, which has been given to the other officers, applies with particular emphasis to you. And in addition there is incumbent upon YOU, the obligation to strive with all your soul, to be an exemplar of everything that a true Forester, and a faithful officer, ought to be.

Much is expected of YOU, because so great honor and responsibility have been placed upon your shoulders. Not only in the practice of those elemental principles which all of us alike may strive to exemplify in our daily life, do the members expect to find you constant; but also they expect, and rightfully so, that you will be prompt, punctual, scrupulous, exact, and conscientious in the performance of every routine act which the duties of your office entail.

The proof which the members of ———— Court have given of their confidence in your character and ability, by elevating you to this exalted station, is a tribute more precious than gold in the estimation of every true Forester. I congratulate you.

The office of Chief Ranger is the most honorable, which any Forester can hold. Other offices there are, of higher rank, for example, those in the High Standing Committee, but these stations exceed your office only in *power*. None of them can, in point of *honor,* surpass the office of Chief Ranger.

During the coming year, a golden opportunity will be yours to rise to the level of that lofty estimate of your personal qualities, as a Catholic and a Forester, which your election to this office denotes.

You must treat all members with absolute equality, without favor, fear, or partiality. You are bound to see that every law and rule is strictly obeyed, without exception or reservation; that every officer and every member discharges every duty which the law and justice may require of them. And as a capital all-inclusive duty, it is yours to foster officially and personally, among your members the spirit of Charity, the greatest of all virtues, and thus make smooth and bright the ways wherein you shall walk.

In this way shall your Court prosper. So shall you win the praise and gratitude of Forestry. So shall thrive and flourish those sturdy beauteous trees—Charity, Brotherly-Love, and Unity, in the shelter of which I wish you and yours, and all our brethren, long life and abundant happiness.

Raise your right hand and repeat your pledge of honor:—

I, freely, and of my own accord, do, in the presence of this Court, solemnly pledge my sacred honor to conduct the meetings and services of this Court in strict compliance with the rules and regulations as provided in the laws of the Order, and I will not permit any violation of said laws, rules, and regulations to be made by any member of the Court or of the Order.

I promise to advance the interests of this Court, and of the Order, by every honorable means within my power, to keep secret and inviolate all transactions of this Court and the Order, and to report immediately to the proper authorities any violation of a Forester's obligation that may come to my knowledge. I further promise on all questions before the Court to be impartial and just in my rulings, rendering to each member a just and fair hearing without favor or bias.

I solemnly pledge myself to defend the good

name of the Order or of a member thereof, on all occasions, to the end that malice and scandal may be banished, and charity, good will, and fraternal love may be encouraged, practiced, and made to prevail throughout our beloved Order.

(Turning to the Court, the Chief Ranger says:—)

These pledges I conscientiously and sincerely give you, and I earnestly pray that God may assist me in keeping them in word and deed.

(Chief Ranger turns and faces Deputy.)

D. H. C. R.—In the name of our Worthy High Chief Ranger, I accept your pledge of fidelity to the manifold duties of the honorable station to which your Court has raised you.

With deep pleasure and high hope do I now decorate you with this emblem of your authority as Chief Ranger of ———— Court.

As you wear it on your heart, may it speak to all who see it, of the Charity, Brotherly-Love, Kindness, and Good-will which abide within.

And when your term of office shall have ended, may your successor receive it unstained and untarnished by strife or any other base or petty thing, which would mar the sweet and winsome countenance of Charity.

(Deputy extends hand, welcomes Chief Ranger to his official station, and hands him the gavel. Deputy then says:—)

D. H. C. R.—Chief Ranger, call up the Court.

(Chief Ranger raps three times with the gavel. All rise and join in the Ode—HAIL TO OUR CHIEF. When Ode is finished Chief Ranger seats Court, and Deputy says:—)

D. H. C. R.—Members of ——— Court, my work is done. Your officers are installed. Now it is for you to support them; encourage them; work with them. This much you owe them. They are at once your leaders and your servants. The best leader is always the best servant.

No matter whether you voted for these officers, or for other candidates in the late election, these officers are now your officers; they are officers of this Court, not of any faction or part of it, but of the entire Court.

Remember Unity! Unity is the bulwark of Forestry. Think how the solitary oak languishes and dies; then remember how the oak in the heart of the forest stands for ages in majesty and strength, surrounded by its fellows, with its vigorous green-clad arms lifted up to Heaven. Remember Unity!

And so may your officers and you discover, as you go through the coming year together, new heights of happiness, peace, and prosperity.

INSTITUTION OF NEW COURTS

H. C. R.—My friends: We have met to organize a new Court of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters. The High Standing Committee, which is the governing body of our organization, relying upon your sincerity and worthiness, has granted your petition for a Charter.

Before you are admitted to full fellowship with us, it is proper that you should understand clearly our aims and purposes, the obligations you must assume, and the pledges required of you.

Our Order is primarily and essentially Catholic. Belief in a Divine Creator, adherence to the Church He established, and obedience to its teachings, are deeply rooted in the heart of true Forestry.

The Christian ideal is the pattern set for us. Honor, Virtue, and Truth are its basic principles. The sanctity of the home, the integrity of the family, the indissolubility of the marriage bond, the blessings of parenthood as well as its manifold responsibilities and sacred rights, are principles which find here stalwart champions.

Unity and Fraternity—loyalty each to each, sympathy and helpfulness in adversity, comfort in affliction, patience, humility, kindliness,

steadfastness, and square dealing—are virtues we cherish.

Envy, malice, ill-will, selfishness, greed, injustice have no abiding place here.

But Charity—sublimest of Christian virtues—vitalizes the whole concept of our Order. It is the life, the light, and the crowning glory of it all. *It is its soul.*

Nor are the benefits we bestow solely spiritual. Each one who shares this comradeship in life, who responds to it in kind, who is faithful to the other obligations which the Constitution imposes, will have the assurance that when Death comes to him, as it must come to all of us, his family will not be left destitute. This is our pledge.

To those of our Faith who come to us in the spirit of good-will, sincere and whole souled, sound of body and clean of heart, the doors of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters are opened wide.

I now declare this meeting open for the purpose of formally instituting ———————— Court, No. —— of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters, and to dedicate it to Unity, Fraternity, and True Christian Charity.

H. C. R.—The High Conductors will now prepare the candidates for initiation. The High Secretary-Treasurer will read the names

of the applicants. The applicants will rise as their names are called.

(The High Senior Conductor arranges the Candidates facing the High Chief Ranger, and reports as follows:)

H. S. C.—High Chief Ranger, in obedience to your instruction I take pleasure in reporting to you that there are —— applicants present for admission to our Order, all of whom have been deemed worthy and have received the approval of the High Standing Committee.

H. C. R.—In performance of his duty as laid down in our laws, the High Secretary-Treasurer will now read your Charter.

(High Secretary-Treasurer reads Charter.)

H. C. R.—The High Secretary-Treasurer will now instruct you concerning the financial obligations you assume in becoming members of ———————— Court.

H. S. T.—My friends, you are about to take the obligation which will make you a member of our beloved Order. But before doing so, let me impress upon you another obligation of the utmost importance, and that is your financial obligation.

You have paid the fee required by our law, for admission to the Order. Hereafter at regular intervals, you will be notified when further payments are due from you. These

assessments are levied upon all our members for the payment of Death Benefits, for maintaining a Reserve Fund, and for defraying the running expenses of your Court and of the Order.

Thirty days are allowed within which you must comply with these notices, known as Assessment Calls. These payments must be made to the Financial Secretary of this Court.

This Court is obliged under penalty of forfeiture of its charter to pay to the High Secretary-Treasurer, the amount assessed upon every member of the Court.

You see, therefore, that failure on your part to pay your Assessments seasonably, might deprive your beneficiary, that is to say, your dependents, of the benefits and protection which your membership assures to them.

Prompt payment by the individual members,—although the sum is small,—yields in total the larger sum which provides protection for our members, and enables the Order to carry on its business and sustain its ideals of Charity.

As High Secretary-Treasurer, I cannot impress upon you too strongly that neglect in paying your dues and assessments will mean the loss of your insurance and deprive your loved ones of the financial protection which

is guaranteed them by your membership in this Order, to which they are entitled.

H. C. R.—In its primary sense, Forestry, as you know, means the cultivation and preservation of trees, those magnificent specimens of God's creation, which by their foliage, their blossoms, and their fruit, not only beautify the earth, but nourish, refresh, and inspire mankind. They shelter man and beast from the fury of the winds and the rigors of heat; afford a home-nest for the birds of the air; nurture the soil, by detaining in its bosom the moisture which the fertilizing rain bestows as it falls from Heaven.

To the tree, civilized man is indebted for the material of his houses, churches, schools, and the countless implements of commerce, to say nothing of the appliances of science and art.

Forestry in the natural order is, therefore, highly useful, necessary, and beneficial to mankind. No less so—if not more so—is that Forestry to which we would welcome you as members, the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters.

Charity is a tree implanted by God and nourished by His Grace in the immortal souls of men. The roots are religion; the branches are the acts of helpfulness we do for others; kind and generous words are the leaves which

deck the tree in splendor, glorifying the Creator and making it a thing of beauty in human sight.

Brotherly love is a tree of a kindred growth, constantly in bloom. It is ever green,—it thrives best wherever human suffering takes its course,—it casts its gentle shades over the sick bed and droops in devout sympathy above the grave.

The Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters is established and maintained to cultivate and preserve such trees. In joining our Order, each member takes a pledge to foster, protect, and cherish these precious, beauteous growths of virtue.

As a body of Catholic men and women, our Order proposes to itself, the cultivation and preservation of Unity, Fraternity, and true Christian Charity, not merely as virtues to be admired, but to be cherished for their own sake and practiced in daily life. It is the motive in human conduct that makes it meritorious. And so it is that Forestry derives its great power and usefulness from the spirit which actuates its members.

As trees lend beauty, grace, and symmetry to the face and form of nature, so do Love, Charity, and Fraternity enrich, ennoble, and exalt men and women who sincerely aspire to exemplify them.

And as the cultivation of trees contributes so abundantly to the human needs and material improvement of men, so does the multiple cultivation of the ideals of our Order—the widespreading trees of Brotherly Love and Charity—minister immeasureably to the exaltation and enrichment of the souls of men and women who dedicate themselves unselfishly to these noble purposes.

This is the capital object of our Order.

Behold now the lesson of Unity, as Forestry expounds it.

Not for long will a tree survive, sturdy though it be, when it stands in solitude, whether on the hill-top or the plain. The storm and stress of the elements, the onslaught of the gale, the insidious encroachment of the blight, the changes of cold and heat will rend, and parch, and break it; and so it will wither and die.

But that same tree, surrounded by many trees which make a forest, lives on, giving shelter and protection to its neighbors, and receiving from them, shelter, aid, and protection in return. So, despite the assaults of climate and season, the forest stands for ages, its roots deeply intertwined, its trees massed triumphantly against the dangers which no one of them could long endure alone.

United we stand. Divided, we fall.

You and I as individuals are weak indeed. Bound together, and surrounded by the thousands who compose our Order, we are indeed strong.

H. C. R.—I will now administer to you the Obligation. You will please raise your right hand and repeat after me the pledge of secrecy and fidelity using your name when I use mine.

OBLIGATION

I, ——————————, in the presence of the members of the Order here assembled, do pledge my word and honor, as a Catholic, that I will strive to the best of my ability, God helping me, to conduct myself at all times in a manner befitting a Catholic.

I promise always to avoid scandal, whether by causing, encouraging, or promoting the same, in any way whatsoever.

I promise to discharge faithfully any and every duty imposed upon me by the law, or the lawful authority of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters.

I promise that I will at all times, aid, support, protect, and defend my brother and sister Forester; whenever I can do so in good conscience and justice.

I promise to refrain in thought, word, and deed, from all unkindness, envy, detraction, or malice towards any member of this Order, or towards any other person.

I pledge myself to hold secret and inviolate, all the business, ceremonials, and doings of this Court, and of this Order, and under no conditions to reveal the same, directly or indirectly, to any person whomsoever, who is not a member, unless my moral duty requires that I so reveal them under seal of the confessional, or to proper civil authorities.

These promises I hold to be binding upon me while I live.

Our Conductors will now give the current password, which will be held secret by you and given only, when seeking admission to a Court of the Order; to Conductors when they are taking it up in the session, or when the Chief Ranger of your Court requests it.

H. S. C.—High Chief Ranger, the candidates are in possession of the password and await your further instruction.

H. C. R.—To gain entrance to the Court-room, rap once on the outer door, and give the first part of the password to the Outside Sentinel, who will admit you to the ante-room. Then rap three times on the inner door; give your name, the name and number of your Court, and recite the last part of the password to the Inside Sentinel. He will admit you to the Court-room.

In the conduct of a meeting, there are certain signals to be observed.

One rap of the gavel calls the members to order; or seats the Court.

Two raps of the gavel call up the Officers.

Three raps of the gavel call up the Court.

Four raps of the gavel call up the Court to receive High Officers.

H. C. R.—I now extend to you, in the name of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters, a cordial welcome to our fold, and pledge to you the loving aid and hearty friendship of every member of our Order.

(H. C. R. calls up the Court and all join in the Initiation Ode; after which the H. C. R. declares a brief recess before installing the officers of the new Court.)

INSTALLATION OF NEW COURT OFFICERS

In the Installation of New Court Officers, the ritual for Installation of Court Officers (Page 30) may be followed, substituting for the titles of Deputy High Chief Ranger and subordinate officers, those of High Standing Officers, as circumstances may require.

FUNERALS

When notified of the death of a member, the Chief Ranger shall direct the Recording Secretary to call a special meeting of the Court notifying each member of the hour and place of the funeral. At this special meeting, the Chief Ranger shall appoint four or six honorary pall-bearers to represent the Court at the funeral.

When the members have assembled for the special meeting, they shall go in a body to the home of the deceased, where the Chief Ranger shall consult with the family of the deceased —and if agreeable to the family recite the following prayers:

Five Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary.

Have pity on me, have pity on me at least you my friends; because the hand of the Lord hath touched me.

PSALM 129

Out of the depths I cry to Thee, Lord, O Lord, harken to my voice!

Let Thine ears give heed to my plaintive cry!

If Thou, Lord, shouldst retain sin, O Lord, who could stand?

But with Thee is Forgiveness, and because of Thy Law I trust in Thee, Lord.

My soul trusteth in His word; my soul waiteth for the Lord.

From the morning watch until night, let Israel wait for the Lord:

For with the Lord is loving-kindness, and plenteous redemption is with Him.

He will ransom Israel from all its sin.

Eternal rest give unto him, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon him (her).

THE APOCALYPSE OF ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE.
CHAPTER 14, VERSE 13

In those days: I heard a voice from Heaven, saying to me: Write, blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. From henceforth now, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours, for their works follow them. L

R. Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

ST. JOHN 11

At that time: Martha said to Jesus: Lord, If Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died; but now also I know that whatsoever Thou wilt ask of God, God will give it Thee. Jesus saith to her: Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith to him: I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection of the last day. Jesus said to her: I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, although he be dead, shall live; and every one that liveth,

and believeth in me, shall not die for ever. Believest thou this? She saith to him: Yea, Lord, I have believed that Thou art Christ the Son of the living God who art come into this world.

R. Thanks be to God.

LET US PRAY

Do Thou, O Lord, we beseech Thee, deliver the soul of Thy servant N., from every bond of sin, that rising from the grave in the glory of the resurrection, he may find repose in the company of Thy saints and Thy elect. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, who by Thy very nature dost always show mercy and forgive: we humbly entreat Thee for the soul of Thy servant N., whom Thou has this day summoned from the world; deliver him (or her) not into the hands of the enemy, nor forget him for ever; but command Thy holy Angels to receive him and take him to Heaven his true home: that, having put his faith and trust in Thee, he may not suffer the pains of hell, but enjoy a place in Paradise. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Be mindful, O Lord, of Thy servants, men and women, who are gone before us with the sign of faith, and sleep the sleep of peace. To these, O Lord, and to all that rest in Christ, we beseech Thee grant a place of refresh-

ment, light, and peace. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Have pity on me, have pity on me at least you my friends: because the hand of the Lord hath touched me.

Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

The Chief Ranger shall carry the gavel draped in mourning, and it shall remain draped for the space of thirty days. The charter of the Court shall also be draped for the space of 30 days. At the next regular meeting of the Court (in the order of business report of members sick, in distress), the Court shall be signalled to rise, and the Chief Ranger shall pay tribute to the deceased member and say 3 OUR FATHERS AND 3 HAIL MARYS for the repose of his soul—concluding with ETERNAL REST, etc.

Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters

70th Anniversary Communion Breakfast

Sunday, December 11, 1949

Mass at 9 o'clock, Holy Cross Cathedral

Breakfast at 10:30, East Newton Street Armory

Guest Speaker

Most Reverend John J. Wright
Auxiliary Bishop of Boston

3629

Breakfast 98c — Subscription 52c — Total $1.50

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